[English]

Railway Lines affected by Natural Calamities

1082. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway zones and extent of Railway lines in each zone affected by natural calamities during the current year;

(b) the total loss incurred on account of damage of bridges and railway lines due to natural calamities during the above period;

(c) whether work on repairing of such railway lines and bridges have been completed;

(d) if not, the extent of work done;

(e) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(f) the number of trains and number of days for which such trains were cancelled due to the demage by natural calamities and accidents, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Installation of Radio Station

1083. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request from the State Government of Assam regarding installation of a Radio Station at Karimganj has been pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof, and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The scheme to set up a radio station at Karimganj in Assam was not a part of the approved 8th Plan. However due to persistent demand, a scheme has been drawn up to set up a radio station with 20 KW MW Transmitter at Karimganj subject to availability of funds and other infrastructural facilities.

Modernisation of Public Sector Steel Plants

1084. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for modernisation of VISL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other public sector steel plant is being modernised/proposed to be modernised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including progress made so far and the amount spent/proposed to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Financial viability and availability of requisite financial resources are pre-requisites for modernisation of VISL in the long term. M/s. M.N. Dastur and Co were engaged to make a detailed study on the turn around strategy of VISL. The report envisages capital expenditure of Rs. 43.42 crore under short term plan and Rs. 572.61 crore under long term plan. VISL Board in principle has approved the short term schemes. VISL is already discussing with CET, Ranchi an in-house facility of SAIL for detailed engineering and implementation. This will cover Steel Melting Shop, Rolling Mills and Finishing Areas.

(c) and (d). SAIL has taken up modernisation of its three integrated steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro. The details are given below

A. Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)

DSP modernisation is being implemented through 16 turnkey packages out of which 6 are global and 10 are indigenous. All major facilities have been completed/ commissioned and balance jobs are likely to be completed progressively by March, 1997.

The updated cost estimates (base 3rd Quarter, 1996 prices) of DSP modernisation is about Rs. 4848 crore (under finalisation by SAIL). The cummulative expenditure till September, 1996 is Rs. 4347.72 crore.

B. Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)

The total modernisation is being executed in two phases i.e. Phase I (9 indigenous turnkey packages) and Phase II (15 indigenous and 5 global turnkey packages). Major production facilities of Phase I have been completed by March, 1994. Out of 15 indigenous packages for Phase II, 9 packages have been completed and 2 packages are partially completed and out of 5 global packages, 2 packages have been completed and 3 packages have been partially completed. The balance work is under various stages of implementation. The modernisation is likely to be completed by April, 1997.

The approved Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of this project is Rs. 3954 crore. The cummulative expenditure till September, 1996 is Rs. 3127 crore.